



LOFTLEIDIR-ICELANDIC AIRLINES

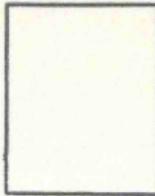
Douglas DC-4 Skymaster

Founded in 1947 as a domestic airline, Loftleidir initiated international operations on the North Atlantic on June 17th, 1947 with a single Skymaster. From 1951 to 1953 the carrier's financial position deteriorated, and it was unable to finance faster, more competitive aircraft. Undaunted, Loftleidir decided to lower fares and compete on the basis of cost, rather than speed. These low fares were a great success, and additional Skymasters were acquired, bringing the fleet to four aircraft. The airline's last Skymaster was retired in 1961, being replaced by Douglas DC-6Bs. The aircraft pictured was the airline's first Skymaster, named "Hekla," which was built during World War II as a C-54A military transport.

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